

350 S. Loop 336 W., Conroe, TX 77304 | consolidated.com | NASDAQ: CNSL

# **VIA EFIS**

December 6, 2018

Morris L. Woodruff Secretary Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

RE: Notice of Withdrawal of Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications IXC Missouri Tariff Pursuant to §392.461, RSMo.

Dear Mr. Woodruff:

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications, in accordance with Section 392.461, RSMo. and Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-28.070(6)<sup>1</sup>, provides this letter as notice to the Missouri Public Service Commission of its intent to withdraw and detariff in full the below-referenced tariff.

Effective date for detariffing:	January 1, 2019
Tariff to be withdrawn:	Missouri Tariff No. 1, Missouri Telecommunications Tariff (reflected in EFIS as "Consolidated Communications (Enterprise) - IXC(Telephone"))

Website address containing service descriptions and rate information:

www.consolidated.com/regulatory (available January 1, 2019)

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this filing, please call my direct line at (936) 788-7420, or email me at <u>kevin.kastor@consolidated.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kastor Director – Government Affairs Consolidated Communications

cc: <u>opcservice@ded.mo.gov</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Commission Rule 4 CSR 240-28.070 has been rescinded effective December 30, 2018, and 28.070(6) is now set forth in a streamlined Rule 4 CSR 240-28.013(1) effective the above date (Code of State Regulations, 11/30/18).

# This tariff, Missouri Tariff No. 1 filed by Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications cancels and replaces, in its entirety, the current tariff on file with the Commission, Missouri Tariff No. 1, issued by Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications Network Services.

# TITLE PAGE

# MISSOURI TELECOMMUNICATIONS TARIFF

# OF

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.

d/b/a

# **Consolidated Communications**

This tariff contains the descriptions, regulations, and rates applicable to the furnishing of service and facilities for telecommunication services provided by Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc., d/b/a Consolidated Communications with offices at 350 South Loop 336 West, Conroe, Texas 77304. This tariff applies for services furnished within the State of Missouri. This tariff is on file with the Missouri Public Service Commission, and copies may be inspected, during normal business hours, at the Company's principal place of business.

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications operates as a competitive telecommunications company in the state of Missouri.

Issued: 12/1/14

By:

CANCELLED January 1, 2019 Missouri Public Service Commission JX-2019-0116 Effective: 01/01/15

Michael Shultz – Vice President, Regulatory and Public Policy 350 South Loop 336 West Conroe, Texas 77304

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# SYMBOLS

The following are the only symbols used for the purposes indicated below:

- (D) Delete or Discontinue
  (I) Change Resulting in an Increase to a Customer's Bill
  (M) Moved from another Tariff Location
- (N) New
- (R) Change Resulting in a Reduction to a Customer's Bill
- (T) Change in Text or Regulation but no Change in Rate or Charge.

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# TARIFF FORMAT

**A. Sheet Numbering** - Sheet numbers appear in the upper right corner of the page. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to the tariff. When a new sheet is added between sheets already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new sheet added between sheets 14 and 15 would be 14.1.

**B.** Sheet Revision Numbers - Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each page. These numbers are used to determine the most current sheet version on file with the MPSC. For example, the 4th revised Sheet 14 cancels the 3rd revised Sheet 14. Because of various suspension periods, deferrals, etc. the MPSC follows in their tariff approval process, the most current sheet number on file with the Commission is not always the tariff pages in effect. Consult the check sheet for sheet currently in effect.

**C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence -** There are nine levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to its next higher level:

2. 2.1. 2.1.1. 2.1.1.A. 2.1.1.A.1. 2.1.1.A.1.(a). 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I. 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i). 2.1.1.A.1.(a).I.(i).(1).

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# WAIVER OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications is classified as a competitive telecommunications company in the State of Missouri for which the following statutory and regulatory requirements are waived.

4 CSR 240-10.020	-	Depreciation and income
4 CSR 240-3.545(2)(C)	-	Posting of exchange rates at central
		operating offices
4 CSR 240-30.040	-	Uniform system of accounts
4 CSR 240-33.030	-	Minimum charge rules
Section 392.210.2	-	Establish uniform system of accounts for
		annual reports
Section 392.240(1)	-	Rates – reasonable average return on
		investment
Section 392.270	-	Property valuation
Section 392.280	-	Depreciation rates
Section 392.290	-	Issuance of securities
Section 392.300.2	-	Acquisition of stock
Section 392.310	-	Issuance of stocks and debt
Section 392.320	-	Stock dividend payment
Section 392.330	-	Issuance of securities, debt, and notes
Section 392.340	-	Reorganization(s)

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# SECTION 1.0 - TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

# 1.1 Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used herein only for the purposes indicated below:

C.O.	-	Central Office
Corp.	-	Corporation
EAEA	-	Equal Access Exchange Area
FCC	-	Federal Communications Commission
IXC	-	Interexchange Carrier
LATA	-	Local Access and Transport Area
LEC	-	Local Exchange Carrier
MO PSC	-	Missouri Public Service Commission
MTS	-	Message Telecommunications Service
PBX	-	Private Branch Exchange

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# SECTION 1.0 - TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS, (Cont'd)

## 1.2 Definitions

Access - Access to the Company's services are provided by one or more or a combination of the following methods: presubscription in equal access areas, direct access, 800, 950 and 10XXX dialing sequences.

Access Code - A sequence of numbers that, when dialed, connect the caller to the provider of services associated with that sequence.

Access Line - An arrangement which connects the Customer's location to Company's designated point of presence or network switching center.

Authorized User - A person, firm or corporation, or any other entity authorized by the Customer to communicate utilizing the Company's services. An authorized user also may be a consumer as defined herein.

**Calling Card** - A billing convenience whereby the charges for a call may be billed to an approved telephone company-issued calling card or valid commercial credit card where accepted. The terms and conditions of the local telephone company will apply to payment arrangements.

**Casual Calling** – A service whereby the Customer accesses the Company's service by dialing a Company-provided access code prior to placing the call, such as 101XXXX + 1 + area code + destination number.

**Collect Calling** - A billing arrangement whereby the originating caller may bill the charges for a call to the called party, provided the called party agrees to accept the charges.

**Commission** – The Missouri Public Service Commission.

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# SECTION 1.0 - TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS, (Cont'd)

## **1.2 Definitions, (Cont'd)**

**Company** - Used throughout this tariff to refer to Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. d/b/a Consolidated Communications unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context.

Consumer – A person who is not a Customer initiating any telephone calls using operator services.

**Customer** - The person, firm or corporation, or other entity which orders, cancels, amends, or uses service or is responsible for the payment of charges and/or compliance with tariff regulations.

**Customer Premises Equipment -** Terminal equipment, as defined herein, which is located on the Customer's premises.

**Equal Access** - Has the meaning given that term in Appendix B of the <u>Modification of Final</u> Judgment entered August 24, 1982, in United States v. Western Electric, Civil Action No. 82-0192 (United States District Court, District of Colombia), as amended by the Court in its orders issued prior to October 17, 1990.

**Equal Access Code** - An access code that allows the public to obtain an equal access connection to the carrier associated with that code.

**Local Exchange Carrier ("LEC")** - The term "Local Exchange Carrier" denotes any telephone company that provides local telephone service to Customers within a defined area.

**Personal Identification Numbers (PINS)** - Code numbers used in connection with designated telephone numbers which allow intrastate calls to be categorized for various applications.

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# SECTION 1.0 - TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS, (Cont'd)

## **1.2** Definitions, (Cont'd)

**Switched Access** - Where access between the Customer and the interexchange carrier is provided on local exchange company Feature Group circuits. The cost of switched Feature Group access is billed to the interexchange carrier.

**Third Party Billing** - A billing arrangement by which the charges for a call may be billed to a telephone number that is different from the calling number and the called number.

**Terminal Equipment -** Devices, apparatus, and associated wiring, such as teleprinters, telephones, or data sets.

V & H Coordinates - Geographic points which define the originating and terminating points of a call in mathematical terms so that the airline mileage of the call may be determined. Call mileage is used for the purpose of rating calls.

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# **SECTION 2.0 - RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### 2.1 Undertaking of the Company

Service is offered to business Customers of the Company to provide direct dialed and directory assistance calls originating and terminating within the State of Missouri, using the Company's network configuration. The Company provides switched long distance network services for voice grade and low speed dial-up data transmission services. The Company does not undertake to transmit messages but furnishes the use of its facilities to its Customers for communications. All Services are provided subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this tariff.

The Company's services are provided on a monthly basis unless otherwise provided, and are available twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week.

# 2.2 Applicability of Tariff

This tariff is applicable to telecommunications services provided by the Company within the state of Missouri.

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# 2.3 Payment and Credit Regulations

# 2.3.1 Payment Arrangements

The Customer is responsible for payment of all charges for services and equipment furnished to the Customer for transmission of calls via the Company. The Customer agrees to pay to the Company any cost(s) incurred as a result of any delegation of authority resulting in the use of his or her communications equipment and/or network services which result in the placement of calls via the Company. The Customer agrees to pay the Company or its authorized agent any and all cost(s) incurred as a result of the use of the service arrangement, including calls which the Customer did not individually authorize.

All charges due by the Customer are payable to any agency duly authorized to receive such payments. The billing agency may be a local exchange telephone company, credit card company, or other billing service. Terms of payment shall be according to the rules and regulations of the agency and subject to the rules of regulatory agencies, such as the Missouri PSC. Any objections to billed charges must be promptly reported to the Company or its billing agent. Adjustments to Customers' bills shall be made to the extent that circumstances exist which reasonably indicate that such changes are appropriate. Payment periods may vary by product.

Charges for installations, service connections, moves, and rearrangements, where applicable, are payable upon demand by the Company or its authorized agent. The billing thereafter will include recurring charges and actual usage as defined in this tariff.

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#### 2.3 **Payment and Credit Regulations**

#### 2.3.2 **Deposits**

- A. To safeguard its interests, the Company may require the Customer to make a deposit to be held as a guarantee for the payment of charges in accordance with Missouri Public Service Commission Rules. A deposit may be required if the Customer's financial condition is not acceptable to the Company or is not a matter of general knowledge. A deposit does not relieve the Customer of the responsibility for the prompt payment of bills on presentation. The deposit will not exceed an amount equal to two months of the estimated charge for the service for the ensuing twelve months. A deposit may be required in addition to an advance payment. The sum of the advance payments and deposits will not exceed 2 months' estimated monthly service charges.
- B. Upon discontinuance of service, the Company shall promptly and automatically refund the Customer's deposit plus accrued interest, or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills including any penalties assessed for service furnished by the Company.
- С. Deposits will accrue interest annually at the required interest rate in accordance with Missouri Public Service Commission Rules. Upon request of the Customer, accrued interest shall be annually credited to the Customer by deducting such interest from the amount of the next bill for service following the accrual date.
- D. The Company shall annually and automatically refund the deposits of Customers who have paid bills for twelve consecutive months without having had service discontinued for nonpayment or had more than one occasion on which a bill was not paid within the period prescribed and are not then delinquent in payment.

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#### 2.3 Payment and Credit Regulations, (Cont'd)

#### 2.3.3 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require a Customer to make an advance payment before services and facilities are furnished. The advance payment will not exceed an amount equal to the non-recurring charge(s) and one (1) month's charges for the service or facility and additional (1) month advance payment for each subsequent month. In addition, where special construction is involved, the advance payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated non-recurring charges for the special construction and recurring charges (if any) for a period to be set between the Company and the Customer. The initial advance payment will be credited to the Customer's initial bill. Subsequent advance payments will be credited on the appropriate monthly bill. Advance payments do not accrue interest. An advance payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

## 2.3.4 Late Payment Charge

All bills are due upon receipt. Any bill outstanding and unpaid more than thirty (30) days after the date the bill is postmarked, shall be considered past due. A late fee of 1.5% per month will be charged on any past due balance in accordance with Commission rules.

#### 2.3.5 Return Check Charge

A return check charge of \$25.00 will be assessed for checks returned for insufficient funds. Any applicable return check charges will be assessed according to the terms and conditions of the billing entity (i.e. local exchange company and/or commercial credit card company) and pursuant to Missouri law and Commission regulations.

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# 2.4 Taxes and Fees

The Company reserves the right to bill any and all applicable taxes, fees, governmental or quasigovernmental assessments in addition to normal long distance usage charges, including, but not limited to: Federal Excise Tax, State Sales Tax, Municipal Taxes, Universal Service Funds and Gross Receipts Tax.

All state and local taxes (i.e. gross receipts tax, sales tax, municipal tax) are listed as separate line items and are not included in the quoted rates for services paid in arrears. All state and local taxes are included in the quoted rates for prepaid services. All charges and fees subject to the Missouri Public Service Commission jurisdiction, except taxes and franchise fees, will be submitted to the Commission for prior approval.

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#### 2.5 Refunds or Credits for Service Outages or Deficiencies

#### 2.5.1 Interruption of Service

Credit allowances for interruptions of service which are not due to the Company's testing or adjusting, to the negligence of the Customer, or to the failure of channels, equipment and/or communications systems provided by the Customer, are subject to the general liability provisions set forth in this tariff. It shall be the obligation of the Customer to notify the Company immediately of any interruption in service for which a credit allowance is desired by the Customer. Before giving such notice, the Customer shall ascertain that the trouble is not within his or her control, or is not in wiring or equipment, if any is furnished by the Customer and connected to the Company's terminal. Interruptions caused by Customer-provided or Company-provided automatic dialing equipment are not deemed an interruption of service as defined herein since the Customer has the option of using the long distance network via LEC access. For purposes of credit computation every month shall be considered to have 720 hours. For services with a monthly recurring charge, no credit shall be allowed for an interruption of continuous duration of less than two hours. For message rated toll services, credits will be limited to, at maximum, the price of the initial period of individual call that was interrupted.

#### 2.5.2 Inspection, Testing and Adjustment

Upon reasonable notice, the facilities provided by the Company shall be made available to the Company for such tests and adjustments as may be deemed necessary for maintenance in a condition satisfactory to the Company. No interruption allowance will be granted for the time during which such tests and adjustments are made.

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# 2.6 Liability of the Company

- **2.6.1** The Company's liability for damages arising out of mistakes, interruptions, omissions, delays, errors, or defects in transmission which occur in the course of furnishing service or facilities, in no event shall exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the Customer for the period during which the faults in transmission occur.
- **2.6.2** The Company shall not be liable for claim or loss, expense or damage (including indirect, special or consequential damage), for any interruption, delay, error, omission, or defect in any service, facility or transmission provided under this Tariff, if caused by any person or entity other than the Company, by any malfunction of any service or facility provided by any other carrier, by an act of God, fire, war, civil disturbance, or act of government, or by any other cause beyond the Company's direct control.
- **2.6.3** The Company shall not be liable for, and shall be fully indemnified and held harmless by the Customer against any claim or loss, expense, or damage (including indirect, special or consequential damage) for defamation, libel, slander, invasion, infringement of copyright or patent, unauthorized use of any trademark, trade name or service mark, unfair competition, interference with or misappropriation or violation of any contract, proprietary or creative right, or any other injury to any person, property or entity arising out of the material, data, information, or other content revealed to, transmitted, or used by the Company under this Tariff; or for any act or omission of the Customer; or for any personal injury or death of any person caused directly or indirectly by the installation, maintenance, location, condition, operation, failure, presence, use or removal of equipment or wiring provided by the Company, if not directly caused by gross negligence of the company.
- **2.6.4** The Company shall not be liable for any defacement of or damages to the premises of a Customer resulting from the furnishing of service which is not the direct result of the Company's gross negligence.
- **2.6.5** The Company will provide credit on charges disputed by customer, verbally or in writing, that are verified as incorrect by Company. If oral or written objection is not received by Company within a reasonable period of time after bill is rendered (as determined by current law and regulatory policy), the account shall be deemed correct and binding upon the customer.
- **2.6.6** The Company's liability for gross negligence or intentional misconduct is not limited by this tariff.

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# 2.7 Minimum Service Period

The minimum service period is one month (30 days).

# 2.8 Cancellation by Customer

Service may be canceled by the Customer on not less than 30 days prior notice to the Company.

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### 2.9 **Refusal or Discontinuance by the Company**

The Company may refuse or discontinue service under the following conditions. Unless otherwise specified, the Customer will be given ten (10) days written notice and allowed a reasonable time to comply with any rule or remedy any deficiency.

- **2.9.1** For failure of the Customer to pay a bill for service when it is due, provided that suspension or termination of service shall not be made without ten (10) days written notice to the Customer, except in cases where a Customer engages in fraud.
- **2.9.2** For failure of the Customer to meet the Company's payment and credit requirements as described in Section 2.3 of this tariff.
- **2.9.3** For failure of the Customer to make proper application for service.
- **2.9.4** For Customer's violation of any of the Company's rules on file with the Commission, provided ten (10) days' written notice is given before termination.
- **2.9.5** For failure of the Customer to provide the Company reasonable access to its equipment and property.
- **2.9.6** For Customer's breach of the contract for service between the Company and the Customer.
- **2.9.7** For a failure of the Customer to furnish such service, equipment, and/or rights-of-way necessary to serve said Customer as shall have been specified by the Company as a condition of obtaining service.
- **2.9.8** When necessary for the Company to comply with any order or request of any governmental authority having jurisdiction.

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#### 2.9 Refusal or Discontinuance by the Company (Cont'd)

- **2.9.8** The Company may refuse or discontinue service without notice to the Customer for any of the following reasons:
  - A. In the event of tampering with the Company's equipment.
  - **B.** In the event of a condition determined to be hazardous to the Customer, to other Customers of the Company, to the Company's equipment, the public, or to employees of the Company.
  - **C.** In the event of a Customer's or Subscriber's use of equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the Company's equipment or the Company's service to others.
  - **D.** In the event of fraudulent use of the service.

# 2.10 Customer Notification of Complaint Procedures

The Company shall provide with each bill to Customers a toll-free telephone number and address to which complaints may be addressed. The accompanying message shall include the following sentences: "If you remain dissatisfied with our resolution of your complaint, you may contact the Missouri Public Service Commission at P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The Commission may also be reached at (573) 751-3234."

# 2.11 Limitations of Service

- **2.11.1** Service will be furnished subject to the availability of the necessary facilities and/or equipment and subject to the provisions of this tariff.
- **2.11.2** The Company reserves the right to discontinue furnishing service, upon written notice, when necessitated by conditions beyond its control, or when the Customer is using the service in violation of the provisions of this tariff, or in violation of law.
- **2.11.3** The Company does not undertake to transmit messages, but offers the use of its facilities when available, and will not be liable for errors in transmission or for failure to establish connections.

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#### 2.10 Limitations of Service, (Cont'd)

**2.10.4** The Company reserves the right to discontinue the offering of service or deny an application for service if a change in regulation materially and negatively impacts the financial viability of the service in the best business judgment of the Company.

#### 2.11 Use of Service

Service may be used for any lawful purpose for which it is technically suited. Customers reselling or rebilling the Company's Missouri intrastate service must have a Certificate of Authority as an interexchange carrier from the Missouri Public Service Commission.

#### 2.12 Terminal Equipment

The Company's facilities and service may be used with or terminated in Customer-provided terminal equipment or systems, such as PBXs, key systems, multiplexers, repeaters, signaling sets, teleprinters, handsets, or data sets. Such terminal equipment shall be furnished and maintained at the expense of the Customer, except as otherwise provided. The Customer is responsible for all costs at his or her premises, including personnel, wiring, electrical power, and the like, incurred in the use of Company's service.

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#### 2.13 Cost of Collection and Repair

The Customer is responsible for any and all costs incurred in the collection of monies due the Company including legal and accounting expenses. The Customer is also responsible for recovery costs of Company-provided equipment and any expenses required for repair or replacement of damaged equipment.

#### 2.14 Right to Backbill for Improper Use of the Company's Service

Any person or entity that uses, appropriates or secures the use of service from the Company, whether directly or indirectly, in any unlawful manner or through the providing of any misleading or false information to the Company and which uses, appropriation, or securing of services is inconsistent with the stated uses, intents, and purposes of this tariff or any restrictions, conditions, and limitations stated herein, shall be liable for an amount equal to the accrued and unpaid charges that would have been applicable to the use of the Company's service actually made by Customer.

#### 2.15 Billing Entity Conditions

When billing functions on behalf of the Company are performed by local exchange telephone companies, credit card companies or others, the payment conditions and regulations of such companies apply, including any applicable interest and/or late payment charges. In case of any disputed charges that cannot be resolved by the billing company, the Billed Party may contact the Company directly. If there is still a disagreement about the disputed amount after investigation and review by the Company or other service provider, the Billed Party has the option to pursue the matter with the appropriate state commission and/or the Federal Communications Commission.

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#### 2.16 Interconnection

The Company reserves the right to interconnect its services with those of any Other Common Carrier, Local Exchange Carrier, or alternate access provider of its election, and to utilize such services for the provision of services offered herein.

#### 2.17 Toll Free Services and Numbers

- **2.17.1** The Company will make every effort to reserve toll-free (i.e., 800/888) vanity numbers on behalf of Customers, but makes no guarantee or warranty that the requested toll-free number(s) will be available or assigned to the Customer requesting the number.
- **2.17.2** If a Customer accumulates undisputed past-due charges, the Company reserves the right not to honor the Customer's request for a change in toll-free service to another carrier (e.g., "porting" of the toll-free number), including a request for a Responsible Organization (Resp Org) change, until such time as all charges are paid in full.
- **2.17.3** Toll-free numbers shared by more than one Customer, whereby individual Customers are identified by a unique Personal Identification Number, may not be assigned or transferred for use with service provided by another carrier. The Company will only honor Customer's request for a change in Resp Org or toll-free service, subject to the limitations provided in Section 2.17.2, to another carrier for toll-free numbers dedicated to the sole use of that single Customer.

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#### 2.18 **Responsibilities of the Customer**

- **2.18.1** The Customer is responsible for placing any necessary orders, for complying with tariff regulations, and for ensuring that Authorized Users comply with tariff regulations. The Customer is also responsible for the payment of charges for calls originated at the Customer's premises that are not collect, third party, calling card, or credit card calls.
- **2.18.2** The Customer is responsible for charges incurred for special construction and/or special facilities that the Customer requests and which are ordered by the Company on the Customer's behalf.
- **2.18.3** If required for the provision of the Company's services, the Customer must provide any equipment space, supporting structure, conduit, and electrical power without charge to the Company.
- **2.18.4** The Customer is responsible for arranging ingress to its premises at times mutually agreeable to it and the Company when required for Company personnel to install, repair, maintain, program, inspect, or remove equipment associated with the provision of the Company's services.
- **2.18.5** The Customer shall ensure that its terminal equipment and/or system is properly interfaced with the Company's facilities or services, that the signals emitted into the Company's network configuration are of the proper mode, bandwidth, power, and signal level for the intended use of the Customer and in compliance with the criteria set forth in Part 68 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and that the signals do not damage equipment, injure personnel, or degrade service to other Customers.

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#### 2.18 **Responsibilities of the Customer (Cont'd)**

- **2.18.6** If the Customer fails to maintain the equipment and/or the system properly, with resulting imminent harm to the Company's equipment, personnel, or the quality of Service to other Customers, the Company may, upon written notice, require the use of protective equipment at the Customer's expense. If this fails to produce satisfactory quality and safety, the Company may, upon written notification, terminate the Customer's service.
- **2.18.7** The Customer must pay the Company for replacement or repair of damage to the equipment or facilities of the Company caused by negligence or willful act of the Customer, its Authorized Users, or others, or by improper use of equipment provided by the Customer, Authorized Users, or others.
- **2.19.8** The Customer must pay for the loss through theft or fire of any of the Company's equipment installed at Customer's premises.

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#### 2.20 **Responsibilities of Authorized Users**

- **2.20.1** The Authorized User is responsible for compliance with the applicable regulations set forth in this tariff as well as all rules and regulations of the state utility commission and the FCC.
- **2.20.2** The Authorized User is responsible for identifying the station, party, or person with whom communication is desired and/or made at the called number.
- **2.20.3** The Authorized User is responsible for providing the Company with a valid method of billing for each call. The Company reserves the right to validate the credit worthiness of users through available credit card, calling card, called number, third party telephone number, and room number verification procedures. Where a requested billing method cannot by validated, the user may be required to provide an acceptable alternate billing method or the Company may refuse to place the call.

#### 2.21 Other Rules

- **2.21.1** The Company reserves the right to refuse to process Third Party Billed, Credit Card or Calling Card billed calls when authorization for use is denied or cannot be validated.
- **2.21.2** The Company reserves the right to discontinue service, limit service, or to impose requirements on Customers as required to meet changing regulations, rules or standards of the Commission.

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# **SECTION 3.0 - DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE**

### 3.1 General

The Company offers interexchange telephone services that allow customers to originate and terminate interexchange calls at locations within the state of Missouri.

Each Customer is charged individually for each call placed through the Company. Charges are computed on an airline mileage basis as described in Section 3.2 of this tariff.

Charges do not vary by service offering, mileage band, class of call, time of day, day of week and/or call duration.

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## **3.2** Calculation of Distance

Usage charges for all mileage sensitive products are based on the airline distance between serving wire centers associated with the originating and terminating points of the call.

The serving wire centers of a call are determined by the area codes and exchanges of the origination and destination points.

The distance between the Wire Center of the Customer's equipment and that of the destination point is calculated by using the industry-standard "V" and "H" coordinates.

Step 1 - Obtain the "V" and "H" coordinates for the Wire Centers serving the Customer and the destination point.

Step 2 - Obtain the difference between the "V" coordinates of each of the Wire Centers. Obtain the Difference between the "H" coordinates.

Step 3 - Square the differences obtained in Step 2.

Step 4 - Add the squares of the "V" difference and "H" difference obtained in Step 3.

Step 5 - Divide the sum of the square obtained in Step 4 by ten (10). Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction results from the division.

Step 6 - Obtain the square root of the whole number obtained in Step 5. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained. This is the distance between the Wire Centers.

Formula:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\left(V_1 - V_2\right)^2 + \left(H_1 - H_2\right)^2}{10}}$$

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#### 3.3 Timing of Calls

Billing for calls placed over the network is based in part on the duration of the call. Timing of each call begins when the called party answers the call (i.e. when two way communications are established.) Answer detection is based on standard industry answer detection methods, including hardware and software answer detection. Call timing ends when either party hangs up.

- **3.3.1** Unless otherwise described in the individual service description in this tariff, calls are measured and billed in six (6) second increments. The minimum call duration for billing purposes is six (6) seconds.
- **3.3.2** There is no billing applied for incomplete calls.
- **3.3.3** When a call is established in one rate period and ends in another rate period, the rate in effect at the calling station applies to the portion of the call occurring within that rate period. When a unit of time is split between two rate periods, the rate applicable to that unit of time is based on the rate period in which it began.

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# **3.4** Pay Telephone Surcharge

In order to recover the Company's expenses to comply with the FCC's pay telephone compensation plan effective on October 7, 1997 (FCC 97-371), an undiscountable per call charge is applicable to all interstate, intrastate and international calls that originate from any domestic pay telephone used to access the Company's services. This surcharge, which is in addition to standard tariffed usage charges and any applicable service charges and surcharges associated with the Company's service, applies for the use of the instrument used to access the Company service and is unrelated to the Company's service accessed from the pay telephone.

Pay telephones include coin-operated and coinless phones owned by local telephone companies, independent companies and other interexchange carriers. The Pay Telephone Surcharge applies to the initial completed call and any reoriginated call (i.e., using the "#" symbol).

Whenever possible, the Pay Telephone Surcharge will appear on the same invoice containing the usage charges for the surcharged call. In cases where proper pay telephone coding digits are not transmitted to the Company prior to completion of a call, the Pay Telephone Surcharge may be billed on a subsequent invoice after the Company has obtained information from a carrier that the originating station is an eligible pay telephone.

The Pay Telephone Surcharge does not apply to calls placed from pay telephones at which the Customer pays for service by inserting coins during the progress of the call and cannot be assessed on operator assisted calls.

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#### 3.5 Service Offerings

#### 3.5.1 Switched Outbound Service

Switched Outbound Business Service permits outward calling to any valid termination point utilizing Customer-provided switched access. Unless otherwise stated, calls are billed in six (6) second increments after the initial minimum period of six (6) seconds. Intrastate service is offered in conjunction with Interstate service. Rates are not mileage or time-of-day sensitive. With the exception of the Longway and Longhaul Residential plans, there is no minimum monthly usage associated with this service.

#### 3.5.2 Dedicated Outbound Business Service

Dedicated Outbound Business Service permits outward calling utilizing Customer-provided Dedicated Access. Calls are billed in six (6) second increments after the initial minimum period of six (6) seconds. Intrastate service is offered in conjunction with interstate service. Rates are not mileage or time-of-day sensitive.

#### 3.5.3 Senior Citizen Residential Calling Plan

Eligible qualified customers receive 60 minutes per month of outbound, switched long distance calling for free. Additional minutes in excess of the first 60 minutes will be charged at the per minute rate. Customers must age 55 or over and must provide proof of age.

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# 3.5 Service Offerings

#### 3.5.3 Toll-Free Services for Business Customers

Switched Toll Free is available to Business Customers for incoming calls. Calls originate from any interstate or intrastate location over a toll free number and terminate to a Customerprovided switched access line. Call charges are billed to the Subscriber rather than to the originating caller. Rates are neither time-of-day sensitive nor mileage sensitive. Calls are billed in six (6) second increments. Rates are not mileage or time-of-day sensitive. A Monthly Recurring Charge applies in addition to usage rates.

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3.5 Service Offerings, (Cont'd)

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#### **3.5** Service Offerings, (Cont'd)

#### **3.5.5 Directory Assistance**

Directory Assistance is available to all Customers for the purpose of obtaining telephone numbers.

Charges for Directory Assistance are not applicable to inquiries received from handicapped persons who have to rely on Directory Assistance as the only practical means of obtaining a telephone number. Such persons must contact the Company for credit on directory assistance calls.

Directory assistance is offered to all Customers. When operator assistance is provided to complete or bill the directory assistance charges appropriate operator service charges apply in addition to the directory assistance usage charge.

A maximum of one (1) telephone number is allowed per request. Additional charges may apply for requests of more than one (1) telephone number, which will not exceed the existing tariffed rate.

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#### **3.5** Service Offerings (Cont'd)

### 3.5.6 Directory Assistance Call Completion

Directory Assistance Call Completion is offered in areas where the service is available. The Company Directory Assistance operator will complete the call to the number requested by the Customer without requiring the Customer to redial the number. A per call Directory Assistance Call Completion rate applies for each completed call. This per call rate is in addition to the charge for determining the telephone number requested by the Customer.

Directory Assistance Call Completion may be used in conjunction with operator assisted calling. The completed call is billed at the applicable rate plan usage rate specified in this tariff.

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# **SECTION 4.0 – RATES**

4.1	Pay Telephone Surcharge				
	Per Call		\$0.30		
4.2	Switched Outbound Residence Service *				
		er Minute Iditional Minute	\$0.30 \$0.30		
	Initial P	y Plan \$2.00 Monthly Minimum er Minute Iditional Minute	\$0.065 \$0.065		
	Initial P	ul Plan 7 Recurring Fee er Minute Iditional Minute	\$4.95 \$0.050 \$0.050		
		Citizen Residential Calling Plan ute in excess of the 60 minute allowance	\$0.065		
4.3	Switched Outbound Business Service *				
		ute 8 Seconds Iditional Second	\$0.19 \$0.057 \$0.019		
4.4	Dedicated Outbound B	usiness Service			
		ute 8 Seconds Iditional Second	\$0.19 \$0.057 \$0.019		
4.5	Toll-Free Services for Business Customers				
		ute 8 Seconds Iditional Second	\$0.0590 \$0.0177 \$0.0059		

Monthly Surcharge

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\$5.00

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SECTION 4.0 – RATES (CONT'D)				
4.6	Directory Assistance			
	Directory Assistance Charge, Per Call	\$1.10		
4.7	Directory Assistance Call Completion			
	Per Call Charge	\$0.80		

# 4.8 Exemptions and Special Rates

#### 4.8.1 Emergency Call Exemptions

The following calls are exempted from all charges: Emergency calls to recognizable authorized civil agencies including police, fire, ambulance, bomb squad and poison control. The Company will only handle these calls if the caller dials all of the digits to route and bill the call. Credit will be given for any billed charges pursuant to this exemption on a subsequent bill after verified notification by the billed Customer within thirty (30) days of billing.

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### **SECTION 5.0 - PROMOTIONS**

#### 5.1 **Promotional Offerings - General**

For promotional purposes, market research, or similar corporate purposes, the Company may, at its discretion, offer for limited periods of time, reduced rates or waiver of rates, provided that a copy of any promotional service offering is filed with the Missouri Public Service Commission via a tariff filing, prior to implementation of the promotion. The tariff filing shall contain a brief description of the promotional offering including the length of time the offering will be available and the location in which it will be offered, if applicable.

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